ISSN 1059-1249

THE MAGIC LANTERN GAZETTE

Magic Lantern Society of United States and Canada

Volume 15
Number 4

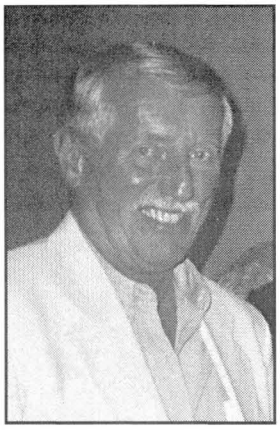
December 2003

www.magiclanternsociety.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Ralph Shape

Another year is drawing to a close. Amidst the deepest, darkest part of the winter, the silver lining is that the days are getting longer and we can again look forward to spring. The hardest part about writing this letter is the lead time. As I write this we are preparing for Halloween but you won't see this until the holidays are upon us.



Our society is thriving. Nearly every day brings inquiries concerning lanterns and slides. There is a lot of interest out there. The task is to develop this interest into new memberships which will benefit us all. This isn't just a hobby collecting things. It's a noble undertaking to preserve history and educate the world concerning how the lantern has had such a prominent place in the development of today's visual entertainment.

The Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada recently lost one of its very early members. Elgin Smith of Prairie Village, Kansas has passed away. Elgin's interest in lanterns spilled over from his professional life as a photographer. He was the official photographer for many of our previous conventions and has provided memories for us all. Our thoughts and prayers go to Dorothy who was always at Elgin's side and attended many of our conventions.

As has become customary, this issues of the *Gazette* is abbreviated to allow our editors needed time to rejuvenate their batteries and prepare for the coming year. They have some exciting projects lined up for the new year. You certainly won't want to miss any issue. Enclosed with this *Gazette* is a booklet for your collection, courtesy of the Society and the Jack Judson collection. We hope you find it interesting.

As the new year begins, remember that your membership must be renewed by the annual remittance of your dues payment. Sharon eagerly awaits hearing from you. A form is enclosed for your convenience.

INSIDE

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- New Website for Collectors
- What is it ?

2004 will see our 11th Convention return to San Antonio, Texas. October 28 to 31 are the dates to mark on your calendar. This promises to be the opportunity of a lifetime to not only visit this historic city, stay at the historic Menger Hotel, visit the Alamo, see some terrific magic lantern shows, but also to visit the only museum in the world dedicated solely to the magic lantern.

Our business meeting at this year's convention will include election of new officers for the 2004-2006 term. The nominating period is now open. I would encourage everyone to consider running for office. We need a broad representation of the membership to lead us into the future and

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

continue the effort to achieve our goals.

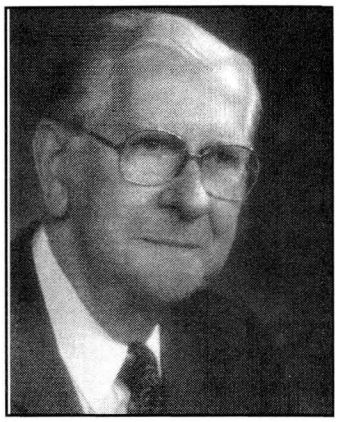
As you can see, it is a busy time of the year. Dues must be paid to renew your membership; nominations for officers must be made; plans must be made to attend the Halloween convention in San Antonio. And don't forget to submit those articles to the Halls for upcoming issues of the *Gazette.*

I have recently come into possession of a collection of 60 slides on dog breeds. Another grouping is about fungi. Everything you ever wanted to know about mushrooms. If these subjects interest you, here is a golden opportunity to fill in your collection.

Meanwhile, have a happy Holiday Season and may your lantern shine brightly throughout the new year.

SAD NEWS

By Sue Hall



Elgin Smith died on July 23, 2003. Elgin was owner of Elgin Smith Studio 35, a family-owned and operated business, where he specialized in colored slide production and copies of fine art.

As Ralph says in his letter, Elgin and his wife, Dorothy, were active members of the Society and past convention issues of the *Gazette* are filled with photographs taken by Elgin.

On Friday, November 21, Carmalita Bishop passed away at her home in Port Townsend, Washington. Her husband, Robert Bishop, was with her.

Our Society owes much to the Bishops. If Joe and Alice Koch, as founders, were our parents, then in a manner of speaking, Bob and Carm were the Society's grandparents. It was at one of "The Last Magic Lantern Shows" that Joe watched Bob and Carm in action and fell in love with the magic of the lantern.

We did not have a current picture of Carm but the one we have shown (probably about 30 years old) is fitting because it shows the Bishops sharing a hobby which give them and others so much pleasure.

The Gazette
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A publication produced by the Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada.

www.magiclanternsociety.org

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Officers

President — Ralph Shape
Vice President — Homer Peabody
Secretary/Treasurer — Sharon Koch

Membership

One Years Dues
Regular member $25
Institutional Member $25
Commercial Member $25

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From R.O. Bishop, Sr. (TOP)

Hello Bob & Sue!
This day received the September, 2003 *Gazette.* It is to my mind an exceptional issue. I thoroughly enjoyed the article by Joe and Alice telling of their experiences 'down under.' Very fitting they should be featured seeing it is the 25th anniversary of the Society.

I am only sorry in the article entitled "Radio Photologues," Herman Weig and his 90 plus son Ed Weig were not mentioned. Ed Weig was or rather is the person responsible for my access to his father's collection. Herman Weig not only headed up tours from the midwest to Seattle and the Alaska Yukon areas but was a fine photographer and also a lanternist of note.

In the *Gazette* Ralph asks for members opinion on the bylaws being proposed by Homer Peabody. Peabody probably had little input from other members. When I learned of his revising the bylaws I wrote him regarding the original bylaws and just how they came about. I wrote of much input by members and without fail all comments were to the effect there should be ballot by mail. For that matter there can be no nominations accepted from the floor, nor can any vote be taken. The election should be over before the convention, and only the results should be determined. My thought is the officers of the Society can take care of Society business as urged in the original bylaws.

I believe it is crucial to this Society that all members be on the same plane. A majority of our membership most likely will never attend a convention of the Society. Until his death, Joe probably was the only person who had attended all conventions and even he was not going to go to another one unless it be in the western states. We have been fortunate in that the conventions have been held in various parts of the country. By design or just luck the practice has allowed many members to attend who normally could not make it to a convention.

The Society owes a debt of thanks to Homer Peabody, in undertaking this task. He has added all the whistles and bells to satisfy most members. But in not retaining the election by mailed ballot the stage is set for 'cliques' to arise. We must have more participation not less in the affairs of the Society.

NEW WEBSITE FOR COLLECTORS

By Thomas Weynants from magic_lantern@yahoogroups.com

I'm preparing a website about the History of Visual Media and will focus especially on Pre-Cinema, Precursors of Photography, Photography & Early Film, etc. The website is permanently under construction but there is already a lot to see and to read.

All reactions, opinions, and critiques (both negative and positive) are very welcome to enable me in improving my website. If you enjoy my site, please place a link on your own "window to the world."

I'm sure there will still be a lot of error to correct and hope that the layout on my screen will be the same on every monitor. For this reason it is important to receive your reactions, both on the layout but also on the information provided. Feel free to forward any information and ideas you think that will be relevant to add to my site. If you like a link to your site on my links page, please let me know.

I will add more illustrations and text soon.

One of my goals is to make all the stereo diableries available online, where possible as stereo images, in other cases shown as single albumen photographs from mine and other collections. All titles of Diableries and JPG images of them will be very welcome.

Interesting URLs and bibliographical references about the subjects on my site will be warmly appreciated. I hope you will all enjoy my first website and look forward to your reactions. http://users.pandora.be/thomasweynants/

Later Note: Visual Media finally has a registered web address: http://www.visual-media.be/
Thomas Weynants is from Belgium and a long time member of the European Lantern Society.

BOOKMARK THIS

A new webshop selling magic lantern materials and related ephemera is now available at www.magic-lantern-shop.com. We are a small and friendly family business offering easy access to quality materials at affordable prices. Our site shows clear pictures of our ever-changing stock with exciting animations bringing the slides to life where appropriate. Anyone using the site has the opportunity to add themselves to our emailing list if they wish to be informed when stock arrives and site updates are completed. Why not have a look at www.magic-lantern-shop.com we are sure you won't be disappointed.

Ed. Note: This email was signed Sandra Douglas and Martin Gilbert, who are long time members of the European Society.

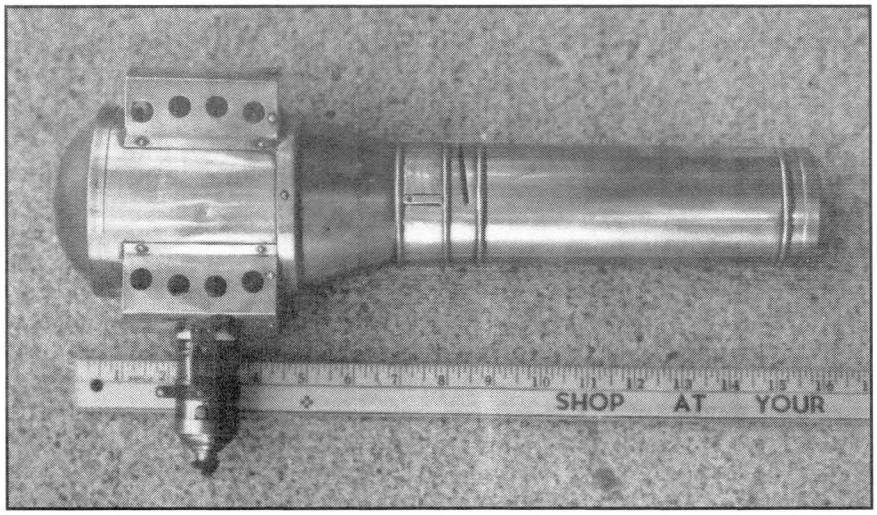
WHAT IS IT?

By Prof. M. Lindsay Lambert

I found this mysterious object last summer (2003), in an eastern Ontario country antique shop. It is evidently a projection device, since there is an angled slot (3/32" wide) in the brass barrel for the insertion of some sort of slide. It has a pair of plano-convex condenser lenses, crudely mounted inside with iron rings, and a 2 1/2" diameter double-meniscus objective lens. The latter is fitted to a sliding tube for focussing. The brass originally had a black oxidized finish, but someone has polished it.

I have placed the image glass of a lantern slide in the narrow slot, and it does project. The result isn't wonderful, as one would expect from such basic optics. With the slot being angled, the projected image only gives an equal focus when the apparatus is titled upwards from the horizontal.

It appears to be a handheld device, as there are no trunnions or other means of attaching it to a stand. I was thinking that it might be an optical pointer, where different shaped diaphragms could be inserted in the slot, but the lens system seems too crude for that; it should be built like quality optical equipment. It looks more like stage lighting, but it's nothing that I know. Any ideas?



For Sale:

43 Magic Lantern slides, mostly of a religious nature, in good condition for best offer plus shipping. These slides came from a closed IOOF home. For details contact R. Rose, 785-537-8495, or grrorela71@yahoo.com

Wanted:

Old advertisements of illustrated magic lanterns for sale. They must contain pictures of the magic lanterns they are advertising. I'm interested in ads of lanterns of all kinds that appear in old magazines, posters, etc. and magic lantern manufacturing company ads included.

I am willing to pay a fair price for the ads. Please contact Jim Robb, 511 Jarvis Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Canada Y1A4H7

WANT ADS

Help Wanted:

My name is Ditza and I am a student at the Maryland Institute, College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland. I am doing a research paper about pornography as a catalyst to the invention of film. I have found out about only one studio so far that did pornographic magic lantern slides, being the Pimlico studio of Henry Hayler. I am sure there must be many more. If anyone has any information or images to help me out, I would greatly appreciate it. Sincerely, Ditza. ditzasia@yahoo.com

Editors Note: This item came off the Yahoo Magic Lantern site. It was suggested by Serge M. that Ditza do a Google search under Magariff. Any of you with a similar interest might wish to do this. Plus I'm sure Ditza would appreciate any help members of the Society can give her.

For Sale:

I have two Magic Lantern Slide Projectors that I no longer use and I would like to offer them to the members of your society. I hope you can advertise them in your newsletter. They are: Beseler Slide King, with 3 1/4 x 4 and 2 x 2 slide carriers, 750 Watt, blower cooled, with spare lamp. $175 OBO. GoldE Master, 500 Watt, convection cooled (silent) with 3 1/4 x 4 slide carrier, with 4 spare lamps. $175 OBO. Please contact John W. Luce, 11714 Lake Aston Court #313, Tampa, Florida, 33626, 813-925-3487, jwluce@ieee.org

THE MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES & CANADA
FINANCIAL REPORT – NOVEMBER 2003

Balance November 2002			**$6,883.40**
INCOME			
	Member dues	$3,134.61	
	Bank Interest	12.66	
	Misc (pin)	5.00	
Total Income		$3,152.27	
EXPENSES			
Gazette			
	Printing	$1,536.80	
	Word Process	367.50	
	Art Work	2.79	
	Mailing	518.79	
		$2,425.88	
Website		296.50	
Membership Book			
	Printing	244.96	
	Mailing	125.16	
		370.12	
Supplies/Stationary		124.69	
Stamps/Mailing		109.39	
Correction/dues deposit		25.00	
Total Expenses		$3,351.58	
BALANCE NOVEMBER 2003			**$6,684.09**

Held in checking account at Bank of America.

This report issued in accordance with the by-laws.
Sharon Koch, Secretary/Treasurer

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PRICE SIXPENCE.

LANTERN MANIPULATION:

BEING

SUGGESTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN THE MANAGEMENT OF

DISSOLVING VIEWS,

THE OXYHYDROGEN LIGHT, &c.

"The Light of the Body is the Eye."

SECOND EDITION.

BIRMINGHAM: A. PUMPHREY.